G-5's "Eye on AMC"
U.S. Army Materiel Command
Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

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Sierra is beta site for implementation of directory

The Sierra Army Depot recently introduced improvements to its information system by implementing the Active Directory, a management tool that enables centralized, secure management of an entire network with the capabilities of reaching worldwide locations. The directory is mandated by the Department of the Army.

The tool provides a place to store information about network-based entities, such as applications, files, printers and people. Currently, this information is scattered throughout most Army information systems and is continuing to grow, according to information technology specialists at Sierra.

"Networks such as ours have evolved from loose collections of connected devices to complex systems made up of interdependent resources," said Paula Taylor, IT specialist. "As a result, network operating systems need to provide much more than simple network file and print services."

The Active Directory, which is an integral component of the Windows 2000/XP operating system, provides network administrators, developers, and users access to a service that: simplifies management tasks, strengthens network security, and makes use of existing systems through interoperability.

New threat emitter overhaul mission nears completion

Technicians at Tobyhanna Army Depot have nearly completed a first-ever $1 million dollar overhaul of a threat emitter originally designed in the defunct Soviet Union.

The AN/MPST-1 Threat Emitter System was fielded by the Soviet Union in the 1960s to launch surface-to-air missiles. The United States obtained a system in the 1970s and used it to fabricate threat emitters to train pilots to avoid SAMs. Of the 14 remaining systems, most are used by the United States and some were sold in foreign military sales.

"This particular system was a foreign military sale to England, where it's used by the Royal Air Force," said Bill Rutkowski, range threat systems leader.

The systems are composed of three antennas, or pedestals, and a control van. The antennas emit threats on different frequency bands, called the G-band, I-band and S-band. The depot is currently overhauling the G-band system, and the I-band system was completed in September 2003.

The effort has taken about two years due to the system's complexity, poor condition and the mission's newness. However, Rutkowski said the depot has been in contact with the RAF and noted that they have been understanding of what it takes to bring the system to like-new condition.

Letterkenny firefighter honored for heroism

A Letterkenny Army Depot Firefighter was recently honored by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the depot commander for his heroism in rescuing a man who was trapped in a house fully engulfed in flames.

Daniel Myers was recognized for his efforts by county officials Oct. 29 at the Franklin County Courthouse. He was later praised by Col. William Guinn, depot commander, during a private ceremony at the depot.

Myers received a commander's coin and a certificate of appreciation.

Did you know…

At the height of heavy conflict and fighting in Al Fallujah, Iraq, an AMC civilian employee assisted Marines in repairing a radar. On Nov. 10, Lonnie Aaron, a Communications-Electronics Command logistics assistance representative, flew into battle and returned the Marines' Firefinder Radar to fully mission capable standards within three hours. The system went down the previous day. The Firefinder Radar is a major system designed for tracking incoming mortar fire and small arms fire. Credited with saving lives, the radar tracks and pinpoints from where the enemy is firing so as to direct counter fire.